

Weekly Newscast Lesson Plan



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with
CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton and the Government of Alberta



Calgary

May 23, 2017

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide an authentic learning resource

Contents:

- Three news stories
- Vocabulary building activities
- Listening comprehension activities
- Transcripts
- Answer keys

News story #1 First stage of LRT Green Line approved (0:15)

Setting the Scene



An artist's image of what the LRT station will look like at Centre Street and Ninth Avenue North (City of Calgary/Screenshot) (CBC file photos)

Like many Canadian cities, Calgary is very spread out. This means that there is lots of space and the city covers a large area. Cars are popular in Calgary, but there are citizens who cannot or choose not to use them. For these people, public transit is important. Public transit also helps cities by reducing the number of cars on the road. This means less traffic and less pollution. One feature of transit in Calgary is the C Train, a light rail train (LRT) that runs through the downtown of the city. Calgary's city council has been looking to expand the C Train so that it can serve and support more people in the city.

Pre-listening Questions

What methods of transportation can you use in a city? Which is your favourite?

Compare public transit in Calgary with public transit in your hometown. Are they different?

Do you like riding the bus or LRT? Why or why not?

Vocabulary

Synonym Matching

To help you better understand the story, choose the pair of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Word from the story</u>	<u>Related words</u>
_____	approved (v.)	a) coming out, exiting
_____	stage (n.)	b) working, running
_____	instead (adv.)	c) 10 years, period of time
_____	emerging (v.)	d) step, level
_____	critical (adj.)	e) additions, growth
_____	decade (n.)	f) as a new plan, as a second plan
_____	extensions (v.)	g) agreed, accepted
_____	possible (adj.)	h) likely, believable
_____	in operation (adj.)	i) negative, judging

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

rezone – change the rules and restrictions on a piece of land

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_3hh1ji

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening

Multiple Choice

Read the following sentences. Then listen to the audio and circle the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Calgary City Council said yes to the **first / fourth / fifth** stage of the new LRT line.
2. The line will begin at **6th / 16th / 60th** Avenue North, then go underground.
3. It will then go to Shepard Station, near 126th Avenue **Northeast / Southwest / Southeast.**
4. Some are unhappy that the line will not reach areas where thousands **drive / live / work.**
5. One councilor notes that they recently voted to rezone a **gold store / golf store / golf course.**
6. This was because they thought the LRT would be built **nearby / next door / below.**
7. Others say the building of this section will make **future / further / faster** extensions possible.
8. The LRT line will cost **4 to 6 / 4 or 6 / 4.6** billion dollars.
9. Construction could start in 2020, with trains running in **2020 / 2026 / 2036.**

Food for Thought

Will the Green Line be convenient for you?

Why is it important for the city to expand the C Train?

What are some other ways that Calgary can develop its public transit system?

News story #2 Dangerous speeding trend on rural Alberta roads (1:28)

Setting the Scene



(AACPO) (CBC file photo)

While cities can have lots of traffic, Alberta's country roads are usually less crowded. With the warm weather, these roads can feel safer for driving, since there is no snow or ice. However, drivers on these roads still need to be careful. Even if there aren't many other cars around, accidents can happen. Sometimes there are animals or farm equipment on country roads. Drivers can lose focus and then lose control of their car. Even with no one around, traffic laws (including speeding laws) should always be followed. These laws are made to protect people's safety. Drivers who are caught breaking traffic laws can have their licences taken away, or pay a big fine.

Pre-listening Questions

Do you like driving? If you don't drive, would you like to learn?

Do you think Alberta drivers and roads are safe? Why or why not?

Have you ever broken traffic laws? What happened?

Vocabulary

Sentence Completion

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Use the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

rural (adj.)	relating to the countryside, not towns or cities
trend (n.)	something that is becoming more common and/or popular
excessive (adj.)	more than is necessary
range (v.)	vary between two limits
extreme (adj.)	very severe or serious
reduce (v.)	make smaller or lower in amount, size, etc.
fatalities (n.)	deaths

1. Some people like living in cities, but some people think the people, traffic and noise are _____. They prefer to live in _____ areas where it is quieter.
2. These days, more and more people can do their work from home using the Internet. With this freedom, living outside of cities may become a bigger _____.
3. Many people who live outside cities still work downtown and drive to work each day. For most Canadians, that trip can _____ from 20 minutes to 1 hour. In _____ cases, people may drive for two hours just to get to work.
4. In Canada, wearing seatbelts while driving is the law. Seatbelts keep people safe in car accidents. This law has helped _____ the number of _____ in car accidents.

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

gravel roads – roads that are not paved, but covered in small loose stones and sand

speeding tickets – fines, given by police, that drivers have to pay for driving too fast

clocked – (informal) recorded, timed, or documented

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_3hh1zi

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Activity

Matching

Read the amounts below. As you listen to the audio, complete the sentences by matching the amount with the correct information that follows.

Answers are in the appendix.

Amount		Information
more than 3600	•	• highest amount of money that was fined
78	•	• rate of kilometres per hour that some drivers have gone
2,000	•	• lowest amount of money that was fined
90	•	• number of speeding tickets given out in one month
195	•	• number of drivers caught going over 200km per hour
1	•	• highest rate of kilometres per hour that was caught
200	•	• some drivers were going this number of kilometres over the limit

Food for thought

Why do you think people speed?

Why do you think Peace Officers are so worried about speeding?

Are you a safe driver? What do you do to stay safe on the road?

News story #3 Computers infected in over 150 countries (2:28)

Setting the Scene



(Chris Hondros/Getty Images) (CBC file photo)

While computers are now a common feature of life, they are not always safe. Dangerous programs can spread to your home or office computer and cause problems. These programs are called *malware*, which means malicious (bad or evil) software. Malware may come in the form of a virus, which spreads to other computers. These programs can cause trouble, such as adware (which shows advertisements) and spyware (which collects your information). People can protect their computers with security programs. However, these programs aren't perfect. Companies must develop new security programs all the time, because criminals develop new malware, too.

Pre-listening Questions

How often do you use a computer? What do you use it for?

What kind of personal information do you have on your computer?

How do you keep your computer safe?

Vocabulary

Matching

To help you better understand the words in the news story, match the words with their definitions.

Answers are in the appendix.

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Vocabulary word</u>	<u>Definition</u>
_____	infected (adj.)	a) confusion and disorder
_____	cyber (adj.)	b) strongly recommend
_____	chaos (n.)	c) said that something must be done
_____	locked (v.)	d) made available
_____	demanded (v.)	e) affected with a virus
_____	exploited (v.)	f) give something new information
_____	vulnerability (n)	g) relating to computers
_____	released (v.)	h) computer programs
_____	recent (adj.)	i) helplessness against harm
_____	update (v.)	j) fastened something so it can't open
_____	urge (v.)	k) newer, happened not long ago
_____	software (n.)	l) used something unfairly, for gain

Extra words to help you better understand the listening:

ransom – money demanded in exchange for the safety/freedom of something

security patch – a computer program to keep a system safe

back up – save computer data and files in more than one place, for safety

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: <https://quizlet.com/3hh2es>

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Activity

Answering True/False questions

Read the following statements. While you listen to the story, decide whether the statements are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. ____ 30,000 computers in 150 countries were infected.
2. ____ They were infected by a ransom ware program called "WannaCry."
3. ____ This caused problems for companies, governments and hotels.
4. ____ The program locked computers and then demanded passwords.
5. ____ It also told users that their files would be lost.
6. ____ Microsoft released a program in May to help all versions of Windows.
7. ____ People with older versions, or software like XP, were still unsafe.
8. ____ Microsoft has released a program for those people, too.
9. ____ Microsoft users believe these malware attacks will continue.
10. ____ They are telling people to keep their security programs up-to-date.

Food for thought

Have you ever had a security problem with your computer? What did you do?

Why do you think criminals create malware?

How can computer companies keep their customers safe?

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	MAY WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi. I'm Ron Nicolson, and this is Learning English with the CBC for May 23 rd , with stories that made news over the past week.	0:00
Story 1	Calgary City Council approved the first stage of the Green Line LRT. But instead of running from Calgary's far north to deep south, it will instead go from 16th Avenue North, underground through the downtown, then emerging to head south to Shepard Station, near 126th Avenue Southeast. Some are critical of the line because it will not reach areas of the city where thousands of people live. Councillor Joe Magliocca notes council recently voted to rezone a golf course, because it was thought that the LRT would be built next door. And he says it won't be there for more than a decade. But others say building this section of the LRT first will make future extensions of the line possible. The LRT line will cost 4.6 billion dollars. Construction could start in 2020 with trains in operation in 2026.	0:15
Story 2	Peace officers in rural Alberta say they're seeing a worrying trend: excessive speeding on secondary highways and gravel roads. The Alberta Association of Community Peace Officers says more than 3600 speeding tickets were given out in April. Fines ranged from 78 dollars to two thousand dollars, and some drivers were clocked going up to 90 kilometres an hour over the speed limit. The association's president, Terri Miller, says they've clocked drivers going 195 kilometres an hour on secondary highways. And she says one driver was caught going more than 200 kilometres an hour on a gravel road. Miller says officers are trying to educate the public about the dangers of extreme speeding in an effort to reduce fatalities.	1:28
Story 3	Calm has returned to computer networks around the world. But not before 300,000 computers in 150 countries were infected with so-called "ransom ware." A program called "WannaCry" caused cyber chaos for large companies, governments and for hospitals, as it locked computers and demanded a ransom, or told users that they would lose their files. WannaCry exploited a vulnerability in Microsoft operating systems. The company released a security patch in March for more recent versions of Windows. But those who didn't update, or those who were running older versions of Windows that are no longer actively supported, such as XP, were still vulnerable. Microsoft has since released patches for them. Technology experts agree malware attacks will continue, and they urge companies and individuals to back up their computers and update their anti-virus and anti-malware software.	2:28

Answer keys

News story 1 First Stage of LRT Green Line approved (0:15)

Vocabulary

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Word from the story</u>	<u>Related words</u>
g	approved (v.)	a) coming out, exiting
d	stage (n.)	b) working, running
f	instead (adv.)	c) 10 years, period of time
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i	critical (adj.)	e) additions, growth
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e	extensions (v.)	g) agreed, accepted
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Listening

1. Calgary City Council said yes to the **first** / **fourth** / **fifth** stage of the new LRT line.
2. The line will begin at 6th / **16th** / 60th Avenue North, then go underground.
3. It will then go to Shepard Station, near 126th Avenue **Northeast** / **Southwest** / **Southeast**.
4. Some are unhappy that the line will not reach areas where thousands **drive** / **live** / **work**.
5. One councilor notes that they recently voted to rezone a **gold store** / **golf store** / **golf course**.
6. This was because they thought the LRT would be built **nearby** / **next door** / **below**.
7. Others say the building of this section will make **future** / **further** / **faster** extensions possible.
8. The LRT line will cost **4 to 6** / **4 or 6** / **4.6** billion dollars.
9. Construction could start in 2020, with trains running in **2020** / **2026** / **2036**.

News story 2

Dangerous speeding trend on rural Alberta roads (1:28)

Vocabulary

1. Some people like living in cities, but some people think the people, traffic, and noise are excessive. They prefer to live in rural areas where it is quieter.
2. These days, more and more people can do their work from home using the Internet. With this freedom, living outside of cities may become a bigger trend.
3. Many people who live outside cities still work downtown, and drive to work each day. For most Canadians, that trip can range from 20 minutes to 1 hour. In extreme cases, people may drive for two hours just to get to work.
4. In Canada, wearing seatbelts while driving is the law. Seatbelts keep people safe in car accidents. This law has helped reduce the number of fatalities in car accidents.

Listening

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News story 3 Computers infected in 150 countries (2:28)

Vocabulary

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Vocabulary word</u>	<u>Definition</u>
<u>e</u>	infected (adj.)	a) confusion and disorder
<u>g</u>	cyber (adj.)	b) strongly recommend
<u>a</u>	chaos (n.)	c) said that something must be done
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<u>d</u>	released (v.)	h) computer programs
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<u>h</u>	software (n.)	l) used something unfairly, for gain

Listening

1. F 30,000 computers in 150 countries were infected.
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